

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
DISTANCE AND CONVENTIONAL GRADUATE
TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN
SRI LANKA WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
P.G.D.E. PROGRAMME**

BY

REFERENCE ONLY

K.A.D.C. OLIVER

B.ED.(Ceyl.) D.P.H.E. (Surrey), M.A. (London)

Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Philosophy.

Department of Education.

The Open University of Sri Lanka.

Nawala, Nugegoda.

Sri Lanka.



March 1997

40397

ABSTRACT

For the past 25 years Sri Lanka has been using Distance Education methods to train teachers at various levels. The Open University Post Graduate Diploma in Education Programme started in 1980. But no evaluation has been done for the past 17 years to test its effectiveness. The main objective of the present study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Open University Post Graduate Diploma in Education (P.G.D.E.) Programme and to compare it with the Programme conducted by a conventional university. The thesis presents an overview of the present situation in graduate teacher training in Sri Lanka in order to provide an understanding of the context of the study. It is noted that since the backlog of untrained graduate teachers has nearly been cleared distance teacher training systems have a significant role to play in the continuing education of teachers.

The review of literature has confirmed the need for training all types of teachers including graduates and the need for evaluating existing teacher training programmes from time to time. Literature on the effectiveness of teacher training programmes in general and Distance Teacher Training Programmes in particular has been reviewed here.

Finally literature related to observation of teaching practice as a measure of effectiveness and development of teacher observation schedules were reviewed. This facilitated the development of a teaching practice observation schedule for this research, which was the first objective of this study.



In this study, the effectiveness of the P.G.D.E. Programme of the O.U.S.L. (Distance Mode) the the P.G.D.E. week-end programme of the Colombo University (Conventional) were studied separately. Next the two programmes were compared with each other. The research design used here was of pre-test-post-test model. The data collected by observing teaching practice at the entry level to the programme and at the exit level and also by interviewing the students. The sample included 32 distance students and 30 conventional students, selected from five districts from Western and North Western provinces. Two sample T test was used to compare the gains within and between samples.

The study indicated that the P.G.D.E. Programme of the O.U.S.L. as well as the P.G.D.E. Programme (week-end) of the Colombo University are effective and the distance programme is either equally effective or slightly more effective than the conventional mode. It thus leads to the conclusion that distance mode of the P.G.D.E. Programme is an acceptable alternative to the conventional mode of Graduate Teacher Training.